

Meeting Minutes Approved - 9/14/06

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

AUGUST 10, 2006

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, August 10, 2006 at the Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order at 7:30 PM, by Chairman Paul Neves, with the following present:

Paul Neves, Chairman, Donald J. Costa, Vice Chair, Arthur DaCosta, Clerk,

Rosa Crowley, Linda Teel, Robert C. Thibodeau, Earl T. Wood

Also Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent; Susan C. Carney, Ph.D, Assistant Superintendent

Absent: Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration

I. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by committee members. A moment of silence was observed for Ana Parenteau, a teacher, for the loss of her son.

II. Approval of Agenda - Mr. Costa made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. DaCosta provided a second. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Ms. Crowley, it was UNANIMOUSLY

**VOTED TO APPROVE the amended agenda and hear item XII.
Executive Session next.**

**III. Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion and/or Action
Items Referred to in GLRI 42-46-5**

A. Personnel Matters - Exception (1)

1) CTA/ICSE

2) Superintendent's Annual Evaluation/Objectives

B. Negotiations/Litigation - Exception (2)

1) CTA/ICSE

2) Central Administrators' Contracts

3) Non-Contractual Salaries

Mr. Wood made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Mr. Thibodeau provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE the motion, with Mr. DaCosta voting against. Open Session recessed at 7:37 p.m.

Open Session reconvened at 8:10 p.m. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes.

IV. Chairperson's Report - None.

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V. Comments from the Public - Ms. Kerna, a parent, stated she went to CHS and what she thinks makes a town is the police department to make it safe, the fire department to keep them well and schools to educate. She asked everyone to be kind to each other and work to benefit the child and benefit the town. Mr. Thurston commented on per pupil expenditure and the possibility of cuts effecting the NEASC warning at the High School.

VI. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Personnel Committee - Mr. Thibodeau reporting meeting on the job description for the Network Manger and Computer Technician. Mr. Thibodeau noted the computer technician was for a future position. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wood and Mr. DaCosta, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE the Computer Technician job description, with Mr. Costa voting against.

On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE the Network Manager's job description, with Mr. Costa voting against.

B. Finance Committee

1. Payment of Invoices - On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the payment of invoices in the amount of \$669,080.75.

2. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau and Ms. Crowley, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the reservation

of unused funds of \$199,141.11 in the 2005-2006 capital improvements budget to be used for capital improvements such as ADA and fire code upgrades to elevators.

3. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was UNANI- MOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the transfer and increase charter school tuitions in the amount of \$37,439 for payment to Beacon Charter School.

4. On a motion by Mr. Crowley, and a second by Ms. Crowley, it was UNANI- MOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE payment to Beacon Charter School third and fourth quarter, 2006, not to exceed \$37,439.

5. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Ms. Crowley, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the purchase the following textbooks, not to exceed \$73273.42:

:

Textbooks-Glencoe/McGraw Hill Science CHS	\$13,752.89
Textbooks - Follett Science CHS	21,800.40
Science Supplies-Flinn Scientific CHS	7,348.43
Paperback Books - ABS, Inc. English CHS	10,782.78
Online Publications - Library CHS	7,181.00
Library Books - Follet Library- CHS & BF Norton	12,407.92
Total	\$73,273.42

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VII. Consent Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. Teel, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE A and B of the Consent Agenda.

A. Approval of Minutes

- 1. Open Session: 7/13/06**
- 2. Executive Session: 6/28/06, 7/11/06, 7/13/06**
- 3. Special Meeting: 7/11/06; 7/26/06**

B. Facilities Report

C. Personnel and Recalls - The Superintendent presented the following:

1. On a motion by Ms. Crowley, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE rescinding the action taken by the school committee on February 23, 2006, not to renew the employment of James DeLillo, recalled to the position of .5 FTE, Elementary Music Teacher, System wide, effective 8/11/2006 (Budgeted).

2. On a motion by Ms. Costa, and a second by Ms. Crowley, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE rescinding the action taken by the school committee on February 23, 2006, not to renew the employment of Stephen Twining, recalled to the position of English Teacher at Cumberland High School, effective 8/11/2006 (Budgeted).

3. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. Crowley, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the appointment of Amy Parent, Special Educator at Garvin School, effective 8/28/2006 (FTE: 1.0, Step: 2, Advanced Lane: n/a, Co-pay: 10%, Budgeted).

4. On a motion by Ms. Crowley, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** the appointment of Allison Sutherland, Special Educator, at Ashton School, effective 8/28/2006. (FTE: 1.0, Step: 1, Advanced Lane: Masters, Co-pay: 10%, Budgeted).

5. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** the appointment of Sandra-Lynn E. White, Chemistry Teacher, at Cumberland High School, effective 8/28/2006. (FTE: 1.0, Step: 3, Advanced Lane: n/a, Co-pay: 10%, Budgeted).

6. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. Teel, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** the transfer of Ronald Eastwood from .5 Assistant Principal at JJM Cumberland Hill Elementary/Annex and Opportunities to Learn Coordinator to .5 Assistant Principal at JJM Cumberland Hill Elementary/.5 Assistant Principal at Community School, effective 8/15/2006. (Budgeted) The Superintendent noted she is leaving the Opportunities to Learn position unfilled at this time due to the budget.

7. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was **UNANI- MOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** with regret the resignation of Gregory Fraginis, Network Manager of the Cumberland Public Schools, effective 8/25/2006.

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Mr. Barrette explained that Mr. Fraginis had the opportunity to go to North Kingstown as their Geographic Information Systems Manager

and their Network Manager, noting he will be missed.

VIII. Old Business

A. Building Committee Update - Mr. Hilton gave a power point presentation on the 3.5 Building Committee renovations and plans for JJM Cumberland Hill and Ashton Schools. He showed Tucker Field bleachers and plans for a concession stand. He noted corrections to the field will begin tomorrow. Improvements under CHS 2010 Phase I and Phase II, included electrical upgrades and asbestos abatement at the High School, restroom and library renovations, as well as the building of the Wellness Center. Future projects include the science wing at the High School, renovation of the gym and fire code upgrades. Mr. Wood noted Mr. Calvert's work on the pool this summer.

B. Search Committee Update - The Superintendent reported there have been three interview sessions for the Business Manager position and she hopes to have a recommendation soon.

C. FY 2006-2007 Budget Update - The Superintendent noted holding meetings on July 11th, 13th, 26th and August 9th . The following recommendations were made:

1. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was UNANI- MOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the reduction of FICA in the amount of \$7,980; reduction of FICA-Med by \$35,569; reduction of Medical Insurance by \$35,569; additional Dental Insurance of \$8,726; reduction of Certified Retirement by \$15,106.

2. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. Teel, it was

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the reduction of legal fees in the amount of \$10,000

3. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the reduction of 2.5 FTE teachers at CHS in the amount of \$135,825.

4. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the reduction of various savings in salaries for \$225,000.

5. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the reduction of workers comp for \$25,000 and unemployment compensation for \$33,992.

6. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Costa and Mr. DaCosta, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the reduction of Copier Repair Business Office by \$1,000, addition of Student Transportation by \$12,000, reduction to Office Supplies Business Office by \$500, reduction to Non Public Textbooks by \$5,000, reduction of furniture by \$29,800. The Superintendent explained furniture for new facilities wasn't budgeted in this line. This is a result of moving furniture around to meet various needs.

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7. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Ms. Teel, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE the reduction to Facilities Maintenance in the amount of \$65,000, with Mr. Wood voting against. Mr. Wood

believes this money is already spent.

8. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Ms. Teel, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the reduction of \$2,000 to Purchases Services School Committee. The Business Manager explained that was for sound and now video is used.

9. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANI- MOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the reduction for Teacher Assistants by \$71,000. The Superintendent noted this will have no negative impact on employment.

10. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was UNANI- MOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the reduction to Substitute Teachers by \$71,000. The Business Manager explained this includes long term absences, jury duty, professional development, school business. The Superintendent felt the new software program will more efficiently manage where substitute teachers are needed.

Mr. Egan asked about the Savings in Salary line. The Superintendent explained there was an analysis done in this line that covers leaves of absence, docked days and unpaid days that are requested. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. DaCosta and Ms. Teel, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the budget as presented.

IX. New Business

A. Home School Instruction Requests - The Assistant Superintendent reported there are a few new requests and renewals. On a motion by Ms. Crowley, and a second by Mr. Costa, it was UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED TO APPROVE the requests for home school instruction.

B. Opening of 2006-2007 School Year - The Superintendent reported they are moving on operational issues and she is meeting with all the administrators and the central leadership team. They have been focusing on transportation and looking at technology and facilities issues.

C. Revised 2006-2007 School Calendar - The Superintendent read the statute that is requiring schools to close for Primary Day voting on September 12th. On a motion by Ms. Crowley, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE the revised calendar, with Mr. Wood voting against.

D. New Teacher Induction (Professional Partner Program) - The Assistant Superintendent reported August 21st will begin the new teacher induction. She thanked Ms. Vanasse and Ms. Calabro for their assistance. Every new teacher will have a mentor for moral support and assistance with paperwork. She noted any teachers changing subject or grade will be entitled to a partner if they wish.

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Dr. Carney reported that Ms. Calabro has had to step down and they are looking for a volunteer to take her place.

X. Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent expressed her gratitude to the School Committee for their patience in reconciling the

budget. She will be working closely with the committee and the new Business Manager. She thanked Ms. Dutremble for her assistance. On a personal note, she offered sympathies to the Parenteau family. She thanked Mr. Fraginis for his work.

XI. Comments from the Public - Ms. Butler thanked Dr. Morelle for explaining the budget process. She stated the teachers feel they are not supported by the town, the school committee and the town council. Ms. Dau asked about the work being done at JJM Cumberland Hill and the Superintendent explained the target date for completion of the windows is next week. Ms. Nunes stated she will be a teacher in the fall and that these are great schools because of what's happening here tonight. Mr. McGarry noted he is a resident, a teacher and President of the CTA and recognized members of the CTA. He stated salaries and health benefits are on the line.

XII. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - Ms. Teel noted the passing of a parent of two students, Richard Sheehan.

XIII. Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion and/or Action Items Referred to in GLRI 42-46-5

A. Personnel Matters - Exception (1)

1. CTA/ICSE

2. Superintendent's Annual Evaluation/Objectives

B. Negotiations/Litigation - Exception (2)

1. CTA/ICSE

2. Central Administrators' Contracts

3. Non-Contractual Salaries

Mr. Wood made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Ms. Crowley provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE recessing Open Session at 9:59 p.m.

Open Session reconvened at 10:34 p.m. On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Ms. Teel, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes.

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XIV. Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE adjourning the meeting at 10:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Harris

Recording Secretary

Approved by the School Committee 9/14/06